

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE  
AT KNOXVILLE**

IN THE MATTER OF A CRIMINAL  
COMPLAINT AND ARREST WARRANT FOR:  
CHARLES MICHAEL BEATTY

)  
) 3:20-MJ- 2136  
)

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF  
AN APPLICATION FOR A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

I, Paul C. Hughes, being first duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

**INTRODUCTION AND AGENT BACKGROUND**

1. This affidavit is submitted in support of an application for an arrest warrant of CHARLES MICHAEL BEATTY (BEATTY), 48 year old male, of Knoxville Tennessee, currently housed at the Knox County Detention Facility, 400 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee.

2. I am a Special Agent of the FBI and have been so employed since 2002. As a Special Agent, I attended the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia where I received instruction and training as a Special Agent including training regarding firearms, emergency vehicle operation, the execution of search and arrest warrants, investigative techniques, and federal legal instruction. I am currently assigned to the Knoxville Division and have investigated violent crimes to include bank and Hobbs Act robberies, car-jackings, kidnappings, fugitive investigations and violent crimes against children offenses. In addition, I have investigated drug and gang violations and have conducted National Security investigations specifically related to terrorism matters. Prior to employment with the FBI, I was employed by the Knox County Sheriff's Office for 14 years. My duties and responsibilities include conducting criminal

investigations of individuals and entities for possible violations of Federal laws, particularly those laws found in Title 18 and Title 21 of the United States Code.

3. This affidavit is based upon my training and experience, and information obtained from other law enforcement officers and agents involved in this investigation. Since this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of securing an arrest warrant, I have not included each and every fact known to me concerning this investigation. I have set forth only the facts that I believe are necessary to establish probable cause to demonstrate that BEATTY knowingly sent threatening communication through the United States Postal Service, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 876(c).

#### **RELEVANT STATUTES**

4. As noted above, this investigation concerns alleged violation of the following statute:

18 U.S.C. § 876(c) prohibits the knowing and willful deposit in an authorized depository for mail matter, to be sent and delivered by the United States Postal Service addressed to any other person, the communication containing a threat to kidnap or to injure a person.

#### **PROBABLE CAUSE**

5. On April 15, 2020, a letter was received by the United States Attorney's Office, from BEATTY via the United States Postal Service, postmarked April 13, 2020, from the Knox County Detention Facility. In the letter, among other threats, it states: "Sixth Circuit Knoxville and Chatt possible federal charges- conspiracy to kill federal Judge "Jordan" by causing massive explosion in federal building....." (See attachment 1 )

6. On the same day, FBI-Knoxville office also received a letter from BEATTY. The letter included BEATTY explaining certain damaging explosives he has and dares any FBI agent to come at him and that he will crush them. (See attachment 2)

7. During the investigation it was learned that in January of 2020, the U.S. Marshals were contacted by Papa Diop (Diop), the cellmate of BEATTY at that time. On May 26, 2020, Diop was interviewed. Diop told a deputy with the U.S. Marshal Service that BEATTY is off his rocker and BEATTY wrote this, handing the deputy U.S. Marshal a “letter.” In the “letter” BEATTY writes, among other things, about going into the federal courthouse under the guise of seeing if he had any outstanding warrants on him. His true purpose for going to the courthouse was to determine if he could get through security with a mag flashlight with explosives in it. He writes how easy it was to get through security. While making his “dry run” he writes about running into his former probation officer Dongerra.<sup>1</sup> He writes that he had no intention of blowing up the courthouse that day. One of the reasons he gives to show he had no intention of hurting “them” is that he “like[s] Nick.” (See attachment 3)

8. Diop relayed that BEATTY had told him he was making bombs for ISIS, if he got out he would carry out an attack at the federal courthouse in Knoxville with bombs. Further BEATTY said he had blueprints of the Knoxville federal courthouse

9. On May 27, 2020, myself, a special agent with the Secret Service, and a deputy marshal from the U.S. Marshal Service requested and interview with BEATTY with regard to the content of the letters. BEATTY agreed.

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<sup>1</sup> Nick Dongerra (Dongerra) is a United States Probation Officer in Knoxville who has supervised BEATTY in the past. Dongerra did in fact see and speak to BEATTY in the rotunda in the Knoxville federal courthouse. BEATTY told Dongerra he had gone to the U.S. Marshal Service office to see if he had active warrants.

10. BEATTY admitted to being the author of all of the letters. BEATTY admitted to being part of a conspiracy to bomb the Knoxville courthouse with a friend Stephanie Jackson (Jackson) and others. Jackson solicited BEATTY to take photos of the Knoxville federal courthouse and build a bomb to use on the structure. The reason for the bombing of the courthouse was because of the life sentence Judge Jordan gave Rauf Muhammad, a friend of Jackson.

11. In the interview BEATTY claimed no grudge against Judge Jordan.<sup>2</sup>

12. BEATTY claimed that when he came to the courthouse he did have the mag light but it only contained BB pellets but no explosive material. But, BEATTY claimed that someone on the outside is holding his C4, liquid Hexamine and a Glock.

13. In the interview BEATTY also claimed to be a member of ISIS.

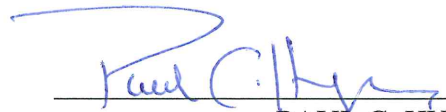
14. On June 10, 2020, the United States Attorney's Office received yet another letter in response to the May 27, 2020 interview. (See Attachment 4)

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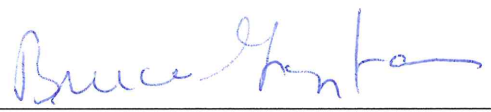
<sup>2</sup> In March of 2002, BEATTY was indicted by the Eastern District of Tennessee/Knoxville for bank robbery and vehicle theft (3:02-CR-30). In October of 2002, Judge Jarvis found him Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI) based on his severe antisocial personality disorder. In September of 2006, the case (3:02-CR-30) was transferred to Judge Jordan who handled many of the conditional release and violation hearings on BEATTY until March of 2017 when Judge Jordan released him from his § 4243(a) commitment in the case.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing, I respectfully submit there is probable cause to establish that CHARLES MICHAEL BEATTY knowingly and willingly deposit in an authorized depository for mail matter, to be sent and delivered by the Postal Service addressed to any other person, the communication containing a threat to injure Judge Jordan.

  
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PAUL C. HUGHES  
Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBSCRIBED and SWORN before me this 11 day of June, 2020

  
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H. BRUCE GUYTON  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE